





FROM THE EDITORS


 THIS ISSUE FEATURES a report from Dirk Huyge and Nicolas Cawre, Royal Museums of Art and History, Belgium, regarding their research project on a site located on the south coast of Rapa Nui. The site was discovered by Catherine and Michel Orliac, who named it Viri o Tuki (Ko te Aheru, south coast). They now have C¹⁴ dates for this site, providing further evidence for an archaic building episode on the island.


 "RESISTANCE AND LAND CONTROL on Rapa Nui" is the title of a joint paper by J. Douglas Porteous and Tandy Shephard-Toomey, University of Victoria, British Columbia. This important and timely paper discusses land distribution and the future of Rapa Nui. Lack of control over land and the uses to which the land is put are thorny subjects for the Rapanui who strive to make their own decisions and have serious concerns about the future of their island, and with good reason.

 PAUL WALLIN AND REIDAR SOLSVIK of the Kon-Tiki Museum provide a report concerning their research in French Polynesia, "Historical Records and Archaeological Excavations of Two National Marae Complexes on Huahine, Society Islands". Their paper discusses excavations at two of the most prominent *marae* on Huahine. Their study revealed sequences of building phases and provided dates for those phases.


 HANS-RUDOLF BORK and Andreas Mieth, Department of Ecotechnology and Ecosystem Development, University of Kiel, Germany, contribute a paper on their recent research in the Galapagos Islands where human impact is causing major problems. They have a great "throwaway" line in their paper about a Baroness and her lovers who lived on Floreana Island and mysteriously disappeared in 1934. This piqued our curiosity and caused us to locate a book published in 1983, *The Galapagos Affair*, by John Treherne. It was indeed a most strange and bizarre *ménage à trois*, and I am surprised that some dark movie hasn't been made about this odd episode in the island's history. Shortly after sending us this paper, the dynamic duo flew off to the Juan Fernandez Islands on another research project. Some people will go anywhere to get out of winter's snow and freezing temperatures!


We wonder if their paths will cross with Bernard Keiser, who is still excavating on Robinson Crusoe Island for buried treasure. This has been going on for years and, so far, no treasure has been found.


 THE THORNY PROBLEM of cannibalism is the focus of a paper by EIF's Shawn McLaughlin. There are hints of cannibalism in various sources about Easter Island and the subject is often mentioned in legends from the island. However, there is little hard archaeological evidence. We hope our readers will enjoy this exhaustive study as much as we did.


 FELICIA BEARDSLEY, WHO IS AT HOME IN THE JUNGLES OF KOSRAE, contributes a paper concerning some enig-


matic cupule stones, and she suggests their possible use in the ancient preparation of medicines.


 WE FOCUS ON John Flenley for our "GETTING TO KNOW YOU" feature. John is one of the outstanding researchers in the field of Rapa Nui studies and also our good friend. Co-author, with Paul G. Bahn, of two important and popular books about Easter Island, his research on Rapa Nui continues, and we eagerly await results of his upcoming field season.

 A STUNNING *MOAI* CREATED by gifted Rapanui artist Bene Tuki is now on display in Venice, Italy. The project is described by Francesco di Castri, of Paris. This elongated and stylish statue, carved from Carrera marble, is a knock-out.

 THE VI INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE that took place in Chile last August was a huge success and we include a report on the meetings by Ann M. Altman, plus photos of the Usual Suspects. The Conference was co-chaired by Christopher Stevenson and José Miguel Ramírez.

 THIS ISSUE'S "LOOK BACK" feature is from the Journal of Captain Charles Bishop, Captain of the ship *Ruby*, which stopped at Easter Island in 1792 and then again in 1795. Bishop's two visits, both before the end of the century, are seldom mentioned in the literary sources which focus on Roggeveen, Gonzalez, Cook, and La Pérouse. But still another ship stopped prior to 1800: this was the *Jenny*, under a Captain James Baker, in 1792. We have no details about that voyage. How many other ships came to Easter Island in those early days but left no record? Rapa Nui appears to have been less isolated than many realized. And clearly, the admixture of outsider genes into the Rapanui gene pool was going on from these very early dates, as is suggested by Footnote #6 which notes the place where some 20 words were deleted by either Bishop or some early editor.

 VINCE LEE CONTRIBUTES HIS THOUGHTS on moving the statues along the ancient *moai* roads of Easter Island (see Letters to the Editor). Vince is a semi-retired architect from Cortez, Colorado, who became interested in pre-Columbian archaeology some twenty-five years ago. He has been exploring and documenting ruins of sites in the Andes and has published numerous papers and a major book about Inca sites. In 1994 he participated in a NOVA television special about the Incas and, as a result, was asked to provide comment as a "fly on the wall" observer during NOVA's filming of Van Tilburg's *moai*-moving and erecting experiments on Easter Island (1998). He has since contributed several articles to RNJ. His most recent book, *Forgotten Vilcabamba, Final Stronghold of the Incas*, describes his work in Peru.

 WE ARE SORRY TO ANNOUNCE THAT *Rongorongo Studies: A Forum for Polynesian Philology* has ceased publication. The announcement was made in the final issue, received in

December. *Rongorongo Studies* comprises 28 individual issues with some 81 articles, plus the sponsored Polynesian Literary Competition.

Some better news is that the founder and editor of *Rongorongo Studies*, Dr Steven Roger Fischer, has a new book in press: *Island at the End of the World: The Turbulent History of Easter Island*; London: Reaktion Books. Sounds like a winner! We look forward to providing a review in our next issue of *RNJ*.

 ALL THINGS CHANGE WITH TIME, and the time is approaching for a change in editorship of *Rapa Nui Journal*. We expect to soon turn the job of editing over to a new generation. Working on the *Journal* over the years has been an enormously satisfactory experience. And so today we look back on the many years of *RNJ*.

In the summer of 1986 the first issue of what has become the *Rapa Nui Journal* appeared. It was a four-page flier, called *Rapa Nui Notes* and it was aimed at those who participated in my Easter Island research projects that lasted over several years' time. Most of my past participants clambered for news about the island and the sheer number of correspondents was becoming untenable. Thus *RNN* was born. It contained bits of news about the island, results of my most recent field season on Rapa Nui, some short items such as the new runway that was about to be built, and notices about new publications.

The following year's issues were up to eight pages, and we were adding special features such as a report on wood carvings by Joan Seaver, and one by Chris Stevenson on his work, a paper on conservation by Monica Bahamóndez of the Conservation Center in Santiago, and one by Claude Vignes, concerning a petroglyph cave in Rano Kau. There was a contribution from William Liller on the archaeoastronomy of the

island, a write-up about the Fonck collection from José Miguel Ramírez, and news of the BBC documentary that was being filmed on the island that year.

By Spring of 1988 we had fourteen pages, and that issue was dedicated to the memory of Bill Mulloy. It included papers by Pat McCoy, Emily Ross Mulloy, Carlyle Smith, Bill Liller, George Gill, and Marie Wormington.

By then Alan Drake was "on board" to help out, and with this stellar bunch of scholars, the name of the publication was officially changed to *Rapa Nui Journal*. And the rest, as they say, is history. Our most recent issue contains 76 pages.

We could not have compiled and published the *Journal* without the help of friends and colleagues who were involved in research projects on the island and in other areas of Polynesia, and who generously shared their work, their research results, and their opinions with us. So, from the very beginning, *RNJ* has been a collaborative effort. Most contributions were given freely, some were coaxed out with a bit of difficulty, but everyone who has been associated with the *Journal* has been a

wonderful source of information, assistance, advice, and (sometimes) frustration.

We thank all of you who have been so generous with your time and support. While not possible to list every person who worked with us through the years, I must acknowledge Frank Morin for his extraordinary assistance since the beginning, and Antoinette Padgett, whose hard work and sharp eye keeps us all honest.

It has been a great honor to work with so many dedicated and gifted people, and we wish the future editors every success.

— Georgia Lee



Rapa Nui, 1981. Two graduate students working on the island in those early days: Chris Stevenson from Penn State University and Georgia Lee, UCLA. Photo Credit: Joan Seaver Kurze.